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MAY 13 2005

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To: KIMBERLY SMITH  
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From: Polly L. Oliver  
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Pages: 4 (inc. cover)

Phone: 571-272-6909

Date: 5/13/05

Re: APP # 10/684,782

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Polly L. Oliver

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May 13, 2005

Examiner Smith:

Thank you for agreeing to review my proposed claim amendments in an effort to put the claims in form for allowance. I refer to your discussion in final rejection mailed 03/18/2005 item 12 in which you stated that regarding claims 10-20, "The claims would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph." (page 6)

I am proposing the following amendments to change the claim language to comply with your suggestion:

Claim 10. (Proposed) An article of furniture for pets comprising:

a first pet step comprising a high-density foam core of three-dimensional shape, said high-density foam having a relatively high coefficient of friction, and defining a bottom, a cover removably mounted to said core, said cover being constructed from a fabric having a relatively high coefficient of friction and having a plurality of seams arranged therein so as to define a bag shape with an opening therein, an elastic band mounted to the cover at said opening, said cover being fitted around said core such that the band locates entirely within the perimeter of the bottom of the core leaving a substantial area of the bottom of the core uncovered and exposed, and a plurality of fasteners permanently systematically and strategically mounted to specific locations on the cover,

a second pet step comprising a high-density foam core of three-dimensional shape, said high-density foam having a relatively high coefficient of friction, and defining a bottom, a cover removably mounted to said core, said cover being constructed from a fabric having a relatively high coefficient of friction and having a plurality of seams arranged therein so as to define a bag

shape with an opening therein, an elastic band mounted to the cover at said opening, said cover being fitted around said core such that the band locates entirely within the perimeter of the bottom of the core leaving a substantial area of the bottom of the core uncovered and exposed, and a plurality of fasteners permanently systematically and strategically mounted to specific locations on the cover, and

said second pet step being removably mounted to the first pet step such that the bottom of the second step, including the exposed area of the core, mates with and is adjacent the cover of the first step and the fasteners therebetween are engaged.

Claim 11. (Proposed) The article of furniture of claim 10 wherein the fasteners comprise hook-and-loop fasteners and are permanently systematically and strategically mounted in strategic specific, corresponding locations to the mating surfaces of the adjoining blocks.

Claim 13. (Proposed) The article of furniture of claim 12 further comprising a third pet step, ~~such~~ said third pet step comprising a high-density foam core of three-dimensional shape, said high-density foam having a relatively high coefficient of friction, and defining a bottom, a cover removably mounted to said core, said cover being constructed from a fabric having a relatively high coefficient of friction and having a plurality of seams arranged therein so as to define a bag shape with an opening therein, an elastic band mounted to the cover at said

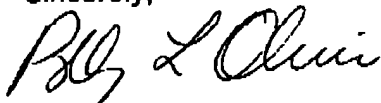
opening, said cover being fitted around said core such that the band locates entirely within the perimeter of the bottom of the core leaving a substantial area of the bottom of the core uncovered and exposed, and a plurality of hook-and-loop fasteners permanently systematically and strategically mounted to specific locations on the cover, and the steps being removably mounted adjacent each other and arranged into a stair such that the hook-and-loop fasteners, having a hook portion and a loop portion, are mated and engaged.

Claim 15. (Proposed) The method of claim 14 wherein the steps further comprise hook-and-loop fasteners permanently systematically and strategically mounted to specific locations on the covers, each fastener having a hook portion and a loop portion, and the method further comprising the step of:

fastening the pet steps to each other by securing the hook portion of a hook-and-loop fastener to the corresponding loop portion of a mating hook-and-loop fastener, thereby engaging the fasteners.

Again, thank you for reviewing the above proposal, and I look forward to your comments. Please call me at your convenience.

Sincerely,



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